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1920 census and the usual onslaught on the merit system is being made, the facts brought out in these chapters are very pertinent and instructive.

With the exception of chapter V. which is devoted entirely to the history of the Census Bureau, and chapter XVI. which deals very generally with Civil Service in States and Municipalities, the body of the book describes in chronological order the progress of civil service reform under the various presidents from Harrison down to date. It is interesting to observe how, from the reformer's point of view, each president in turn before his election made solemn promises to enforce and extend the merit system, only to yield, to a greater or less extent, to the pressure from the politicians of his own party. Each president receives from the author scathing criticism in this regard, with one exception, and that is his friend and associate in the civil service reform movement, Theodore Roosevelt, for whom he has only words of the highest praise. He emphasizes among that great man's characteristics, his daring frankness in thought, speech, and action; his utter fearlessness, his accurate sense of justice, his immense human sympathy, his prodigious capacity for hard work, his inspiring personality, and his practical nature—all of which qualities combined to make him a tower of strength in advancing the great and important work of civil service reform.

The author also refers in eulogistic terms to Dorman B. Eaton, Carl Schurz, and George William Curtis, all of whom were closely identified with him in the reform movement. The book itself is dedicated to Curtis in a beautiful verse inspired by one of the last sentences which fell from the lips of that great reformer. The verse is certainly worth quoting in full:

A kingly spirit and a vision clear,  
A prophet's prescience and a statesman's mind,  
A face to win us and a smile to cheer,  
A heart that glowed with love of humankind!  
His voice was music and his words were song,  
His ways were gentle but his reason just,  
Quick to discern the right and scourge the wrong,  
And him we followed with unfaltering trust.  
He wrote his "Mene, mene," on the wall,  
Then passed, and lo! before our eager eyes  
The spoiler's palace crumbles to its fall  
And on the ruins goodlier mansions rise.  
Too soon his voice grew silent, yet its thrill  
Along the cliffs of memory echoes still!

There are annexed to the book as appendixes various addresses by the author on different aspects of the merit system.

*America in France.* By FREDERICK PALMER. (New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company. 1918. Pp. x, 479. \$2.00.)

To estimate the value of such a book as this solely in accordance with the standards of a scientific review would be as improper as to

judge the worth of a passenger liner purely in terms of its capacity to carry freight. For, while the covers of this volume enclose no little solid cargo, the evident purpose of its author was not so much to fill hungry minds with knowledge as to take a great public for an instructive cruise, through archipelagoes of cantonments and headquarters buildings, along lanes of endeavor and training, to the land of achievement and adventure—from Washington in May, 1917, to the Argonne in November last. The cruise is eminently satisfactory. It is Frederick Palmer at his best, with all his keenness of observation, his gift of word-painting, his vigorous and varied style, and his extremely sympathetic touch. Interest is never lacking, continuity is admirably maintained, and the momentum steadily grows. The wayfarer has little cause for complaint, except perhaps in the lack of any maps or charts.

As for the scientific worth of the book, it must be remembered that Colonel Palmer wrote as an officer of the United States army, an officer officially detailed to present to the public the record of the Expeditionary Force in France, and, in part at least, officially supplied with materials. He wrote almost literally at the elbow of the commander-in-chief; and some, if not all, of his chapters were read before publication by members of the general headquarters staff. He was consequently subjected to the limitations which military discipline and censorship must impose. Nor were official limitations the only ones to be considered. Much of the book was written during the war, when the "morale" both of the army and the American public was a subject of the highest consideration; and it is questionable whether the nation is even yet prepared for an unvarnished statement of the truth. Any writer might well hesitate to make public pronouncement at the present time that the achievements of a particular division might have been more notable had its commander and his staff been more expert, or that casualties of a particular locality and date were out of proportion to the necessities of the situation.

As an account then, even on the broadest lines, of the organization and history of the Expeditionary Force, the book is of necessity incomplete and generally uncritical. But, if the author is a panegyrist, he is a discriminating one, distributing his praise with noticeable care. Let him who reads take careful note of many things which are left unsaid. Nor is it to be forgotten that Colonel Palmer employed documents which may not be accessible to students for a considerable time, and that he was an eye-witness of most of the events which he describes. In brief, he has not only succeeded admirably in his intention, but has produced a chronicle which will, sooner or later, be useful to historians. The time will be determined when we know how far students of this war are to be confronted, in Mr. Hubert Hall's words, with "the cautious policy of the State with regard to official secrets—a precaution which has served as a reasonable excuse for discouraging well-informed criticism of the immediate conduct of public affairs".

HERBERT C. BELL.